REINSTATEMENT OF STATUS

Students who fail to maintain F-1 status may apply to USCIS to be reinstated to lawful F-1 status. Reinstatement is granted under limited conditions and at the discretion of USCIS.

A reinstatement may be applied for by a student who:

- Has not been out of status for more than 5 months at the time of filing for reinstatement (or demonstrates that failure to file within the 5-month period was result of exceptional circumstances).
- Can prove that the violation of status resulted from circumstances beyond the student’s control. Such circumstances might include serious injury or illness but do not include instances where there is a pattern of repeated violations.
- Has failed to complete a change of degree program or transfer to UIS’s I-20 within 15 days from the first class day of the new degree program or transfer.

In order to apply for a reinstatement, students must submit the following to International Student Services:

- Work with Immigration Advisor to determine if eligible for reinstatement and new I-20.
- Write a letter including the following:
  - A brief history of your stay in the U.S. (i.e. when you first arrived as an F-1, what schools you have attended). Explain and document any previous semesters in which you were registered for less than a full course load or any semesters in which you were not registered. Then discuss why you are currently out of status, giving details of the circumstances which led you to be out of status.
  - That you are currently enrolled as a full-time student or that you intend to pursue a full course of study for the next long semester.
  - That you have not been employed without authorization.
  - That your failure to maintain your student status was due to circumstances beyond your control and/or that failure to receive reinstatement would result in extreme hardship.
  - That you are not deportable on any other grounds (such as conviction of any crime).
- Form I-539 with $370 fee
- Proof of financial support
- Copies of all old Form I-20s, Passport, I-94 form
- Transcripts of university studies in the U.S

The Office of International Student Services will help you compile your application for reinstatement to student status and prepare a cover letter as needed to send to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

*Violations of status may subject a nonimmigrant to deportation, and some violations will subject them to 3- and 10-year bars to re-entry to the U.S. Employment (on-campus and off-campus) and other benefits of status cannot be authorized until reinstatement is approved.

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